

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Climate Change Advisory Board
Date: 12th October 2022
Reporting officer: Darren Everden, Assistant Director (IT and Transformation)
Subject: Climate Change Delivery Plan and preparations for Annual Reporting

Purpose and summary of the report:

To present Members of the Climate Change Advisory Board with the *Climate Change Delivery Plan* for consideration and to set out preparation for the council's third Annual Report.

Recommendations:

1. Members are asked to consider and provide comments on the Climate Change Delivery Plan at appendix two.
2. Members are asked to support the approach set out in section three regarding the preparation of this year's Climate Change Annual Report.

1. Introduction

1.1 At the meeting of Full Council on 01 December 2021, the council adopted the Climate Change Strategy for the council for the period 2022-2030.

1.2 As part of the Strategy, a high-level, strategic Delivery Plan was set out under three key workstreams:

1.2.1 Gravesham Borough Council – the organisation

Focusing on how the council can change its own operations and those of its employees, wherever possible to reduce the level of carbon emissions it produces.

1.2.2 Gravesham Borough Council – the housing provider

Exploring opportunities to bring the council's current housing stock up to a better level of energy efficiency standard where it is possible to do so; ensuring new council housing is built to a high level of sustainability and ensuring local planning policy reflects the need for the borough to consider energy efficiency in all developments moving forward.

1.2.3 Gravesham Borough Council – the community leader

It is clear that the council cannot directly affect all of the changes that are needed across the borough. However, in its role as a community leader, it can work with residents, community groups and partners to educate and support them in making changes which will have a positive impact on the level of carbon emissions in the borough.

2. Climate Change Delivery Plan

2.1 The Climate Change Delivery Plan is shown at appendix two. This provides specific actions, along with an indication of resource implication and timeframe setting out how the council will work towards its climate change ambitions, as per the approved Climate Change Strategy.

2.2 The Delivery Plan will form the basis of future annual reports.

2.3 The Climate Change Advisory Board are asked to provide their thoughts and comments on the Delivery Plan.

3. Preparation for the Climate Change Annual Report

3.1 In December 2020, the council published its first annual report, reflecting the activities of the council in working towards the council's Climate Change pledge.

3.2 It is suggested that this year's annual report follow a similar approach as follows:

3.2.1 Borough and Council Emissions Baseline for year 2021-22

An update against the emission levels across the borough from the period (April 21 to March 2022)

3.2.2 Carbon Reduction Actions during 2022

An overview of the proactive work that has been undertaken by the council over the past 12 months since December 2021.

3.2.3 Areas of Focus for 2023

To work on the existing projects and bring them to speed/closure where possible.

3.2.4 Future Projects

An update on the future projects and/or initiatives that will help the borough to achieve its goal of becoming a net zero borough by 2030.

4. Background Papers

Background papers pertaining to this report are held by the Director (Corporate Services). Anyone wishing to inspect background papers should, in the first place, liaise with the Committee & Electoral Services who will make the necessary arrangements.

Lead Officer: Saida Shaikh, Climate Action Delivery Manager

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Implications	APPENDIX 1
Legal	The Council is committed to work towards achieving the overall Government carbon reduction targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008.
Finance and Value for Money	A specific Climate Change Reserve has been established to provide seed funding of activities relating to the council's Climate Change agenda. The reserve was established with a budget of £500k. Climate Change activity will be funded from existing revenue and capital budgets, with external grant funding and support sought as it becomes available.
Risk Assessment	There are no specific risks associated with the detail contained within the draft Climate Change Strategy. It will be necessary however, for both officers and Members to consider any risks that may be associated with proposed climate change actions to ensure these are fully considered prior to implementation.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<p><i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i></p> <p>a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of personal data or special category data or criminal offense data?</p> <p>No</p> <p>b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice?</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk.</p> <p>N/A</p>
Equality Impact Assessment	<p>a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain the answer.</p> <p>No</p> <p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain the answer.</p> <p>No</p> <p><i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i></p>
Corporate Plan	<p>Within the Corporate Plan, there is a specific commitment within objective #1 - People, relating to carbon reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon Neutral Borough: in declaring a climate emergency, begin to take action to prepare Gravesham to become carbon neutral by 2030. <p>The actions that are being taken, however, cut across all of the council services and as such, support the delivery of all corporate plan objectives.</p>
Climate Change	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on actions taken within the Climate Delivery Plan in order for the Council to meet its climate change commitments.
Crime and Disorder	There are no crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.
Digital and website implications	There will be a requirement for the Climate Change Strategy to be updated on the council's website if there is any change. GHG emissions and annual reports are to be updated annually on the website.
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	There are no safeguarding children and vulnerable adults' implications resulting from this report.